

CLAIMS

1. A chair-side multimedia communication system comprising:
 - a display screen having at least one operatory light;
 - an armrest controller electrically coupled to the display screen;
 - directional speakers formed in a headrest and coupled to the controller for providing sound in limited directions; and
 - software configured to provide access to a computer network and to enable patient navigation and dental staff access and management of information on the network.
2. A patient communication system, comprising:
 - a display screen having an operatory light mounted in relation to a patient chair such that the display screen and operatory light are visible from the chair;
 - a controller associated with an armrest of the chair and configured to enable input commands by a patient through the controller to a computer associated with the display screen to provide patient access to a database; and
 - directional speakers located in a headrest associated with the patient chair, the directional speakers configured to provide sound in limited directions.
3. The system of claim 2 wherein the display screen comprises a flat panel touch screen.
4. The system of claim 3, further comprising a video camera mounted in association with the display screen and for providing real time imaging.
5. The system of claim 4, further comprising at least one additional controller remote from the armrest of the chair to enable a service provider to control the display screen.

6. The system of claim 3 wherein the computer is configured to provide access to a webpage of the service provider via the Internet.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein the computer comprises a server coupled to the display screen and coupled to the controller in the armrest.

8. The system of claim 4 wherein the video camera comprises a digital video camera.

9. A patient communication system, comprising:
a patient chair having at least one armrest;
a display screen and operatory light mounted over the patient chair;
a controller mounted on the at least one armrest of the chair, the controller configured to enable patient input through use of the patient's hand and fingers;
a computer system coupled to the display screen and the controller for providing access to the Internet; and
speakers located in a headrest associated with the chair, the speakers configured to provide sound directly to the patient when the patient is in the chair.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising a digital camera mounted in association with the display screen and coupled thereto for providing imaging of the patient in the dental chair.

11. The system of claim 10, further comprising at least one additional controller remote from the armrest of the chair to enable a service provider to control the computer and digital camera.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the digital camera comprises a digital video camera to provide real time imaging.

13. The system of claim 11 wherein the computer is configured to provide access to a webpage of the service provider.

14. A communication system, comprising:

- a chair having a headrest and at least one armrest;
- means for providing light and means for displaying electronic information mounted in relation to the chair such that the display means and the light means are visible from the chair;
- means for providing access to the Internet coupled to the display means;
- means for controlling the Internet access means, the control means mounted on the armrest of the chair; and
- means for providing sound, the sound providing means mounted in the headrest of the chair.